

**REMARKS**

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 1 is allowable and for indicating that claims 3, 4, 6, and 7 contain allowable subject matter.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-7 were are pending in this application. By way of this reply, claims 3 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, and 5 are independent. Claims 4 and 7 depend from claim 2 and claim 5, respectively.

**Claim Amendments**

Independent claims 2 and 5 have been amended to incorporate allowable claims 3 and 6, respectively. Accordingly, claims 2 and 5, as amended, are allowable. Claims 4 and 7 have been amended to correspond to amendments made to claims 2 and 5, respectively. No new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments is present, for example, in the claims.

**Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,369,851 issued to Marflak *et al.* ("Marflak"). Claims 2 and 5 have been amended in this reply to incorporate allowable claims 3 and 6, respectively, as discussed above. Accordingly, as amended, claims 2 and 5 are now allowable.

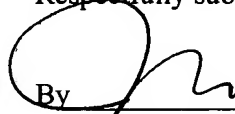
In view of the above, AAPA and Marflak, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the invention as recited in amended independent claims 2 and 5. Thus, amended independent claims 2 and 5 are patentable over AAPA and Marflak. Claims 4 and 7, dependent from claim 2 and claim 5, respectively, are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

### **Conclusion**

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/124001).

Dated: September 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jonathan P. Osha  
Registration No.: 33,986  
OSHA · LIANG LLP  
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800  
Houston, Texas 77010  
(713) 228-8600  
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant